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Racial Barriers To Cost Stores Postal Outlets

Twenty-six Memphis businesses — and many others in Mid-South cities — which operate postal windows must now agree to lift all racial barriers in their stores in order to keep their branch windows.

The new mandate was announced by the Post Office Department in Washington yesterday. It said a non-discrimination clause was being inserted into postal window contracts which store owners must sign.

To operate a postal window in private stores, the businessman must now agree that "any services provided within the premises will be available to the general public on an equal basis."

Several large and numerous suburban stores here would be affected.

The 26 firms here are among 73 affected in Tennessee, said William McConnell, assistant to the regional postal director of the Memphis Region. He said 24 such postal window contracts are held by Mississippi businessmen and 53 by Alabama businessmen.

The contract also stipulates that it can be voided by either the businessman or the post office on 30-day notice.